

When Your Child with Special Health Needs Goes to School

Has your child recently been in the hospital?
Has your child's care plan changed?
Have you talked to your school nurse?

Your child deserves appropriate care at school. Working with your child's care team can help your child stay healthy at school. It's important to plan ahead with your child's care team before your child goes to school. Don't be afraid to ask questions or share ideas to get the help your child needs.

Talk to your child's care team:

- Your child's doctors or primary health care provider
- School Nurse
- Principal
- Teacher or other school staff
- Other providers and caregivers

Your child's school nurse and care team are confidential and respectful advocates for you and your child. You can work with them to help your child succeed in school.

Talk with your child's care team about:

- ☐ When your child will be ready to go back to school
- ☐ What supplies, equipment or adaptations your child may need at school, like crutches, an IV, a wheelchair or g-tube feedings
- ☐ If your child will miss school, have a hard time concentrating or have changes in his or her learning skills
- ☐ Your child's pain, discomfort, or energy level at school
- ☐ New behaviors or feelings your child might have, and the need for counseling
- ☐ Changes in your child's activities, like gym class, lunch, outdoor recess, where to sit in class and field trips
- ☐ Transportation for your child to and from school and talking with your child's bus driver
- ☐ Medicine and forms needed, and extra medicine bottles from the pharmacist for school
- ☐ An emergency plan and list of phone numbers for you, your child's care team and other contacts
- ☐ How your school nurse or school can help you, and what services they may provide
- ☐ Your child's care and treatment at school

Important Contacts

Here is a list of people you should contact when your child with special health care needs goes to school. Be sure to ask each person for his or her phone number.

Your School District Health Services: (check your phonebook or ask your school)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

Your child's primary health care provider:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

Your child's school nurse: (ask your school)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

Your child's teacher:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

This handout has been reviewed by community and Children's Hospital health care providers. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's health care provider.

For More Information Contact:

- Your health care provider
- The Center website at <http://www.cshcn.org>
- Children's Resource Line 206-526-2500 or 1-877-526-2500 toll-free Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, or <http://www.seattlechildrens.org>

Center for Children with Special Needs
A Program of

Children's
Hospital & Regional Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

Children with Special Health Care Needs Program
Washington State Department of
Health